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an essay on Elizabethan statecraft and not a history of Burghley's policy, that Major Hume has been able to make a readable book, and it should be said in conclusion that his book is eminently readable. Nowhere else can be found so clear an exposition of Elizabeth's foreign policy, and a careful study of it serves to make intelligible and consequent the various volumes of the *Calendars* of the Elizabethan State Papers, Foreign and Domestic, which appear at regular intervals in the magnificent series that the experts of the English Record Office are steadily producing.

H. MORSE STEPHENS.

The Building of the British Empire: The Story of England's Growth from Elizabeth to Victoria. By ALFRED THOMAS STORY. ["The Story of the Nations."] (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1898. Two vols., pp. xvi, 391; viii, 468.)

The Growth of Empire: A Handbook to the History of Greater Britain. By ARTHUR W. JOSE. (Sydney: Angus and Robertson. 1898. Pp. xii, 444.)

THE history of the British Empire, as opposed to the history of England or of Great Britain or of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, has of recent years received much greater attention than formerly. It is beginning to be seen that there was a very essential likeness between the growth of that empire in America, in Asia and in Africa, and that the history of the British colonies and dependencies can best be grasped by considering them as a whole instead of separately. No one would deny the excellence of the work done by such men as Mr. Theal in working out the details of the development of the British power in a particular area, and it is only after such specialist work has been adequately completed that the historian of the British Empire can attempt his larger task. The conception of the Empire, as apart from the mother country, and of its development as the most significant effect of the policy of the mother country, was the theme of Sir John Seeley's *Expansion of England*, but Seeley himself only indicated what had to be done and produced a stimulating rather than a definitive work. It is probably to the influence of Seeley and of the school of imperialist politicians in England that is chiefly due the number of small books on the history of the British Empire that have appeared during the last few years.

One of the worst specimens of this literature is Mr. Story's *Building of the British Empire*, which fills two volumes of the "Story of the Nations" series. It is a particularly unfavorable specimen of the sort of popular literature which is still allowed to pass current as history. The author, though he has attained considerable success in other branches of literature, has not the faintest idea of writing history. In his chapters on India, for instance, he quotes as his main authorities, without ever mentioning volume and page, Mill and Green and *mirabile dictu*

even Hume ! The history of such a writer cannot, of course, be taken seriously, for he has no sense of the value of authorities and no idea of the way to handle them. Mr. Story says in his preface that he has "had recourse, as far as possible, to the best sources," and since those best sources seem from his citations to be Hume's *History of England*, Robertson's *History of America*, Grahame's *History of the United States*, *A Popular History of America* and Mill's *History of British India*, there is no more to be said. Mr. Story's literary style is no more commendable than his use of authorities, as may be seen by the following passage, taken at random : "There are those who imagine that it is possible to stay ; who would arrest the stars in their grand ecliptic roll, and have the solemn march of the ages lag to the tune of their buttery-hatch. They would still keep the good new wine in the old bottles, like the fond old grandmother by the ingle-nook, even at the risk of ruining the whole vintage. Best lay the old tackle aside and go to work like thrifty husbandmen and make fresh bottles, and so preserve the bubbling must to make the evening glad" (Vol. II., p. 453). This is the sort of stuff that abounds in Mr. Story's pages.

Much more adequate, far better written, better proportioned and more carefully arranged than Mr. Story's pretentious work is the little volume by Mr. Jose on *The Growth of the Empire*. Apart from the evidence it gives of careful study of good authorities Mr. Jose's book has the special interest of being written by an Australian and published in the capital city of the oldest Australian colony. This fact gives special interest to the chapter on Australia, but it is fair to state that the Australian scholar does not lose his sense of proportion and pays as careful attention to Canada, South Africa and India, as to his own part of the world. After reading the turgid pages of Mr. Story it is a relief to turn to the simple directness of Mr. Jose, and it is a pleasure for a critic, who hates to condemn, to be able to conclude after words of condemnation of one book with hearty commendation of another.

H. MORSE STEPHENS.

Memoirs of Lady Russell and Lady Herbert, 1623-1723, compiled from original family documents by Lady STEPNEY. (London : Adam and Charles Black. New York : The Macmillan Co. 1898. Pp. 244.)

No book can be uninteresting or valueless which relates to Lady Russell, whom the poet Rogers calls "that sweet saint who sat by Russell's side," or to Lady Herbert, who accomplished in real life the pretty achievement with which Julia Marlowe is now charming her audiences, namely, the rescue of a husband from prison by exchange of garments. The book before us, with all its obvious limitations, contains many interesting letters and some good points. The drawback to its usefulness lies in the very fact announced in the preliminary note that its narrative was "compiled from original family documents by Lady Stepney, four generations